

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Lamar R. Ray, Petitioner,

v.

State of South Carolina, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2020-001616

ORDER

Counsel for petitioner moves to hold the time to order the transcript in abeyance to permit petitioner to correct a defect in his affidavit of indigency so that the Division of Appellate Defense can determine whether petitioner is indigent. Counsel also "inquire[s] if the Court could appoint Appellate defense to represent [petitioner]."

Within fifteen days (15) days of the date of this order, petitioner shall personally take one of the following actions:

- (1) mail a revised affidavit of indigency to the Division of Appellate Defense.¹ An affidavit is enclosed as an attachment to this order;
- (2) inform this Court of the identify of counsel who he has retained to represent him in this appellate case; or,
- (3) inform this Court that he wishes to proceed *pro se* in this appellate case—that is he desires to represent himself without the assistance of counsel.

¹ The mailing address for the Division of Appellate Defense is PO Box 11433 Columbia, SC 29211-1433.

If petitioner fails to timely take one of the actions specified above, this Court may find that petitioner has waived his right to be represented by counsel in this appellate case and petitioner will proceed *pro se*.

Petitioner is cautioned that there are many dangers and disadvantages to proceeding *pro se* in this case. If petitioner proceeds *pro se* in this case, this Court will require full compliance with all applicable rules and procedures, and failure to comply with such rules and procedures could result in the dismissal of the matter and forfeiture of the right to discretionary review. Further, since petitioner is untrained in the law, having an attorney represent him in this case would be highly beneficial, and this Court strongly encourages petitioner to either retain counsel or seek to have counsel from the Division of Appellate Defense appointed if petitioner is indigent.

The time limits for perfecting this case are held in abeyance pending further order or direction of this Court. The request to appoint the Division of Appellate Defense to represent petitioner is denied as being premature.



FOR THE COURT C.J.

Columbia, South Carolina
February 17, 2021

Enclosure (affidavit of Indigency)

cc: Tommy Arthur Thomas, Esquire
Lillian Loch Meadows, Esquire
Mr. Lamar R. Ray